

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising temporarily increasing an effective serving rate, for a router configured to receive and transmit packets in a communications network at a time instant corresponding to an onset of congestion of the router, wherein the effective serving rate is increased for a time period comprising approximately a round-trip time interval for a packet transmitted in the network.
2. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein increasing the effective serving rate comprises providing an auxiliary storage area for packets that would otherwise be stored in a queue at the router.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the auxiliary storage area is associated with a physical storage device external to the router.
4. (Previously Canceled)
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